



Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex

*FLATHEAD, HELENA, LEWIS & CLARK
AND LOLO NATIONAL FORESTS*

Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex

FIRE UPDATE: Monday August 27, 2012

(See [Inciweb maps](#) for locations)

Elbow Pass Complex The Elbow Pass Complex is comprised of five different lightning ignitions from July 12 through July 31. These four fires have merged into one fire, the Elbow Pass Complex: Triple Divide Fire, Rapid Creek Fire, Elbow Pass Fire, and Bar Creek Fire. The fires are generally located 25 miles west southwest of Augusta, Montana. The Falls Point fire is south of the Complex. All are located in inaccessible terrain in heavy fuels. The fires are in the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas and are on three national forests. Yesterday transitioned to Type 3 Incident Commander Bill King at 1830.

Today's Planned Activities: The high pressure will continue to sit over the area creating warm and dry conditions. The fires in Idaho are creating most of the smoke in the valley. The fire will continue to smolder and creep and there is likely to be an increase in widespread single tree and small group torching with the dry conditions. The fire is likely to spread slightly in the southwest (Dry Fork) portion of the fire. Fire personnel will monitor fire behavior and collect fuel samples in the Danaher and Basin cabin areas. Long term fire planners continue to evaluate weather, changing fuels, and the potential fire behavior to update fire strategies. All three lookouts are staffed. The helicopters are available to support initial attack operations if needed by the forest.. <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3066/>

Wedge Creek Fire Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, 1020 acres. This fire is burning in steep terrain, heavy timber and around rock outcroppings in a remote un-roaded area about two miles south of the Scapegoat Wilderness boundary. The fire is producing a smoke column visible from highway 200. The fire is burning over a large area with many individual spotty burns scattered throughout. Fire activity on Sunday can be characterized primarily by creeping and smoldering with short duration intense crown fire in steeper areas while burning logs and debris have rolled downslope of the main fire starting more spots. Fire activity was dramatically moderated with the hazy conditions shading the fire area. There were minimal winds affecting the fire. The fire continues to burn into the old fire scar of the Conger fire from 2007. The incident will use a light helicopter to GPS the perimeter today. No water or retardant drops were used yesterday. Due to heavy fuel loadings with intermittent bug-killed trees, steep slopes and inaccessible terrain it is unsafe to have crews on the ground. Fire Managers will meet Monday to re-assess the strategy of this incident. At this time, actions will be to continue to engage the fire in a way that will not place firefighters in danger. No private structures or property are currently threatened by the fire.

Today's Plan: No direct attack is planned at this time. Actions will continue to engage the fire in a way that will not place firefighters in danger and utilize aircraft to observe and engage the fire as necessary. Sunday's weather is expected to be mostly sunny, with a high near 88. Calm wind becoming southwest 5 to 8 mph in the afternoon. [Inciweb Wedge Creek](#)

East Fork Fire Lincoln Ranger District, Helena National Forest, 20 acres. The East Fork Fire was reported on August 22, 2012 and was caused by lightning from the thunderstorm that went through the Lincoln area on Tuesday, August 21st. The fire is actively burning in heavy timber about a mile from the southern boundary of the Scapegoat Wilderness on the Helena National Forest-Lincoln Ranger District. The strategy is to safely manage this fire for suppression within the Wilderness boundary. For more information contact Kathy Bushnell at 406-422-7164.

<http://inciweb.org/incident/3203/>

Prisoner Lake Fire Spotted Bear Ranger District, Flathead National Forest -. Last update was 8-16-12, no further updates until conditions and/or fire behavior significantly changes. Fire history and past information is at:
<http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3065/>

Falls Point Fire Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, 203 Acres –As of August 16th the Falls Point Fire has been added to the Elbow Pass Complex. Elbow Pass Complex fire information:
<http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3067/>

Meadow Creek Fire – 8/23/12 was the final update for this fire; as fire activity continues to minimize and demobilization of camp and crews has begun.
[Inciweb Meadow Creek](#)

Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex – Trail Closures

As of August 26th, 2012

Lewis & Clark National Forest

Trail Closures for Elbow Pass Complex:

- South Fork Sun River Trail # 202 (The portion of the trail south of the South Fork Sun River Pack Bridge)
- Straight Creek Trail #212 (The portion of the trail north of Straight Creek Pass)
- Hoadley Creek trail #226
- Patrol Mountain Lookout Trail #213
- Ellis Creek Trail #227
- East Fork Ahorn Trail # 225 (The portion of the trail south of Grizzly Basin)
- Observation Pass Trail #246
- Elbow Pass Trail # 248
- Cigarette Rock Trail #247
- Green Fork Trail # 228
- Petty-Crown Trail #232
- Crown Mountain Trail #270
- Halfmoon Creek Trail #216
- Telephone Creek Trail #274

Trail closures for the Prisoner Lake fire -

- Trail # 211

Flathead National Forest

Trail Closures: for Elbow Pass Fire Complex fire

- Area Closures are still in effect, refer to Flathead Area Closure map

Trail Closures for Prisoner Lake fire

- Molly Creek Trail # 138,
- So. Fork White River Trail # 380
- Haystack Mtn Trail # 626 ---

Trail Closures for Condon Mtn fire

- Trail #29, the Smith-Little Salmon Trail

Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest

Trail Closures for Wedge Creek and Meadow Creek fires:

- Fenn Mountain Trail #88 -- the entire trail, beginning in T 16 N, R 12 W, Section 3.
- Conger Point Trail #468 -- the entire trail, beginning in T 17 N, R 11 W, Section 31.
- Dwight Creek Trail #414 -- from the junction with Conger Point Trail #468 to Omar Mountain T 17 N, R 12 W, Section 14.
- Conger Creek Trail #403 -- from the junction with Conger Point Trail #468 T 17 N, R12 W, Sec. 23 to the junction with Canyon Point Trail #1437 T17 N, R 11 W, Sec. 29.

Lolo National Forest:

Description of Closed Areas:

From the North Fork Cabin, T 17 N, R 10 W, Sec. 29, northwest along the Dry Fork trail #31, but not including the Dry Fork trail #31, to the junction with Canyon-Falls Creek trail #16; thence southwest along the Falls-Canyon Trail #16, but not including the Falls-Canyon trail #16 to the Scapegoat Wilderness boundary in T 17 N, R 11 W, Sec. 28; thence north and west along the Scapegoat Wilderness boundary through Canyon Point and Omar Mountain to the boundary with the Flathead National Forest, Spotted Bear Ranger District; thence northeast along the Forest boundary through Danaher Mountain and Concord Mountain to Triple Divide; thence southeast along the Continental Divide through Flint Mountain and Scapegoat Mountain to the junction of Cave Creek trail #1217; thence west and south along the Cave Creek trail #1217, but not including the Cave Creek trail #1217, to the junction with the Hobnail Tom trail #32; thence south along the Hobnail Tom trail #32, but not including the Hobnail Tom trail #32, southwest to the junction with the Cooney Creek trail #406; thence southeast along the Cooney Creek trail #406, and including the Cooney Creek trail #406 to the boundary with the Helena National Forest, Lincoln Ranger District; thence south and west along the Forest boundary through Olson Peak and Galusha Peak to the junction with the East Fork trail #481 in T 17 N, R 10 W, Sec. 27; thence northwest along the East Fork trail #481, and including the East Fork trail #481 to the junction with the Hobnail Tom trail #32; thence west along the Hobnail Tom trail #32 to the junction with the North Fork Cabin.

Helena National Forest

Trail Closures for East Fork fire:

- Arrastra/Porcupine Basin Trail #484: entire trail
- Trail #448: entire trail
- Dry Creek/Meadow Creek Trail #483: from beginning in T15N, R10W, Sec 17 to southern shore of Meadow Lake trail in T16N, R9W, Sec 18.